Opening prayer: Come Jesus, and be near to us as we study your words. In Your name, Amen.

Jesus Stills the Storm

Read Matthew 8: 18-27

- 1. What was Jesus' response to the scribe who came to Him and told Him he would follow Him wherever He went? What does that response reveal about Jesus and His character and about the character of those whom He would have follow Him? Jesus tests his resolve by saying that even the animals have homes to rest in but the He has none. The scribe was looking for someone to establish that earthly kingdom. Jesus was resolved to serve the world without regard to his personal comfort and He was looking for followers who would do the same. Jesus and His disciples are trying to get away from the crowds. The mention of other boats indicates that others besides the disciples in the boat with Jesus witnessed this miracle.
- 2. What caused the disciples of Jesus to be afraid while in a boat crossing the Sea of Galilee? What was Jesus doing while in the boat? What request did His disciples make of Him? What was His response? What was the reaction of the disciples to this? A storm came up and the boat was in danger of sinking. Jesus was asleep. They asked Him to save them because they thought they were about to die. Jesus asked them why they were afraid, where was their faith? Then He calmed the storm. They were amazed that even the great forces of nature obeyed Him.

Jesus Heals Two Gergesene Demoniacs

Read Matthew 8:28-34

3. Who met Jesus when He came into the country of Gergesenes? Briefly summarize his condition. What did Jesus do for him? Matthew says there two men, while Mark and Luke relate the same story with only one man. Either way, he or they were living in the cemetery and were demon possessed. The demons recognized Jesus and told him to send them into the nearby pigs. They

recognized the supremacy of Jesus. There were about 2000 pigs. The pigs died after diving off a cliff and the pig farmers weren't happy.

4. What request did the Gergesenes make of Jesus? Why? They begged him to leave their area. They had lost the pigs and were annoyed, scared or both. To them the loss of the pigs was more important than the recovery of the man. Fourfold suggests that we look at the loss of the pigs as we might if they had died from any natural cause.

Matthew's Feast. Discourse on Fasting

Read Matthew 9:10-17

5. How did Jesus reply to the Pharisees who asked Him why He ate with publicans and sinners? No strict Jew could eat with a Gentile and Matthew's guests were classed with the heathen. Jesus said that the well don't need a doctor, only those who are sick. To help sinners repent was what God wanted more than sacrifices. He also said that he was calling the outcasts rather than respectable people. 1. His office being analogous to that of a physician, required him to visit the sin-sick. 2. God himself commended such an act of mercy, and preferred it to sacrifice; 3. As he came to call sinners to repentance, he must go to them. What parables did Jesus teach to illustrate that His teachings were not just an addition to the Old Law? The new cloth isn't used to patch an old coat. New wine isn't put into old wineskins. The old wine is better than the new.

Jairus' Daughter and the Invalid Woman

Read Matthew 9:18-26

Jesus is still at the dinner at Matthew's house when Jairus comes to Him.

6. Who was Jairus? He was a Jewish official. What request did he make of Jesus? In Matthew, he said that his daughter was dead, but in Mark and Luke she is ill. In Matthew he is asking Jesus to place His hands on her to make her live. The fact that Jairus who was a ruler of the synagogue bowed to Jesus shows that his need was stronger than his pride.

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- 7. While He was enroute to Jairus' house, who touched the hem of Jesus' garment? A woman who had an issue of blood for 12 years. Why? She believed that just touching the hem of his clothes would make her well. She came from behind Him to touch Him because she was considered unclean. What happened to the one who touched His garment? She was healed.
- 8. What was Jesus' response to His garment being touched? He felt the power go out of Him and Jesus wanted to know who had touched Him. What was His disciples' response? There are a lot of people crowding around, how you know who touched you? What was the response of the one who had touched it? She came forward and told her story. She expected rebuke because she had touched Him. What reassurance did that one receive from Jesus? He said that her faith had made her well. By calling her out, Jesus is pointing to an important fact. His garment didn't heal her. His will and power healed her. Think of Jairus while this episode is going on. He had requested Jesus' assistance first and now his servants are telling him that his daughter has died.
- 9. What were the people at the house of Jairus doing when Jesus arrived? The musicians for the funeral were stirring up the people. How did Jesus respond? He told everybody to get out that the little girl was sleeping. Oriental funerals are characterized by noisy uproar and frantic demonstrations of sorrow, made by real and hired mourners.
- 10. When Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead, why do you think He only allowed three of His disciples and the parents of the girl in the room where He performed the miracle? Twelve disciples would have been too many. He allowed His inner circle to witness this miracle. If it were to be a sign, why not allow the whole multitude to see the power of God? Jesus' purpose was not to "perform" miracles for the publicity but to preach and teach. He worked His miracles as privately as possible.

Healing Blind Man and a Dumb Demoniac Read Matthew 9:27-34

11. What request did two blind men make of Jesus? Have mercy on them and heal them. What was His response? Did they believe that He could heal them? What

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did they do after Jesus had healed them? They spread the news that Jesus had healed them even though He asked them to keep quiet. The son of David was a common name for the Messiah.

12. What was the response of the multitude when Jesus healed a man who was both mute and demon-possessed? The people were amazed. What was the response of the Pharisees? They said that His power came from the chief of demons.

Jesus Visits Nazareth and Is Rejected

I mentioned this story in lesson four because it seemed to fit there, but Fourfold Gospel has put it here. Luke's gospel gives a longer account, but today we are going to read from Mark.

Read Mark 6:1-6

Fourfold reminds us that during the reading from the scroll that both reader and congregation stood. When the reading was over, they sat.

- 13. What prophecy did Jesus read in the synagogue? Luke tells us that He read from Isaiah 61:1-2. To whom did He apply this prophecy? Himself. Why? Because it applies to Him.
- 14. Even though Jesus manifested great wisdom in His teachings, what questions did His own countrymen ask of Him? Why? They asked about His earthly family background. This was how they knew Him.
- 15. Why is it said that Jesus "could do no mighty work" in His own country? The people didn't have faith in Him. They were jealous.
- 16. What did the people of Nazareth want to do to Jesus? What kept them from doing it? Luke says they drug Him out of town to throw Him off the cliff but he walked away from them. Jesus placed himself alongside Elijah and Elisha, and likened his hearers to widows for want, and lepers for uncleanness, they were ready to dash him to pieces.

Third Circuit of Galilee. The Twelve Instructed and Sent Forth Matthew 9: 36-38 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then

he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Read Luke 9:1-6

- 17. When Jesus saw the multitude scattered abroad, as sheep without a shepherd, what did He say to His disciples? What did He mean by that? He indicated that the people needed hope and leadership, they needed to know God. When He sent out His disciples, they would help people and inspire others to love their neighbors. Jesus is trying to let His disciples interact with smaller groups of people. Think of some of our megachurches today, people know one another if they participate in classes or small groups, worship services are too large to know people.
- 18. Where did Jesus send His disciples? What was their purpose in going? Briefly summarize this mission of the twelve. Matthew 10 tells us that Jesus instructed the disciples to stay in Israel, don't go to Gentile territory or Samaritan towns. They were to preach, heal the sick and bring the dead to life, and drive out demons. He sent them in pairs because: The law required to witnesses to establish truth. They could help each other with differing talents. They would encourage one another. They were to depend on other people for lodging, food and support. This participation would bind the people to them. They were to greet each house with, "peace to this house." Jews considered even the dirt of Gentile areas to be unclean, so to shake off the dust of any city of Israel from their clothes or feet was to place that city on a level with the cities of the heathen, and to renounce all future interactions. Councils and synagogues were both Jewish powers, while "governors and kings" indicates Gentile powers.

Herod Antipas Supposes Jesus to be John Read Luke 9:7-9

19. How had John the Baptist died? Herod had him beheaded because Herodias told her daughter to ask for John's head on a platter during Herod's birthday party. The details are told in Matthew and Mark, but today we just read the

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after effects in Luke. The mission of the twelve probably lasted several weeks, and the beheading of John the Baptist appears to have taken place about the time of their return. Many people believed that the prophet Elijiah would return before the Messiah came. The Apocrypha indicated that it would be Isaiah or Jeremiah. They thought that the Messiah would be an earthly king with pomp and grandeur, that Jesus didn't have.

20.Why did Herod think Jesus was John? Herod like John and knew he was a holy man. He probably thought that John had the power to come back from his death. While John the Baptist hadn't performed miracles while he was alive, there was a belief during this time, that the dead spirits had super human powers. Jesus was trying to stay out of the reach of Herod.

Return of the Twelve and Retirement to the East Shore of Galilee

Mark 6:30-32 The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

21. Upon their return from the mission Jesus had sent them on, what did His disciples report to Jesus? Where did He now instruct them to go? Why? The disciples are trying to report how they had carried out the mission and there were so many people that they couldn't even take time to eat. Matthew's account here says that Jesus went off alone when He heard about John the Baptist's death. Luke reports that they went to Bethsaida. They are trying have some instructional time away from the crowds.

Feeding the Five Thousand

Read Mark 6:33-44

22. Briefly describe the feeding of the five thousand and what led up to it.

Jesus is trying to go to a quiet place to be with His disciples who have just returned from their mission trip. John the Baptist has been beheaded. The crowd had about 5 miles to walk. Some of the people were already on their way to the Passover in Jerusalem. But when people crowd around Jesus teaches them. When it gets late the disciples want to send them away so they can get food. Jesus answers that they should feed them. He asks what food they have, John's gospel reports that there is a boy with five loaves and two fish. Eastern loaves were thin and small, like good-sized crackers, and around the Sea of Galilee, the salting and preserving of small fish was an especial industry. These fish, therefore, were about the size of sardines. Jesus tells them to have the crowd to sit down in groups of fifty or a hundred. There are five thousand men. After Jesus blesses the food and the disciples distribute it. Most of us ask a blessing before we eat. This is one of the few incidents that is related in all four gospels.

23. How many baskets of "left-overs" did the disciples gather? After the meal, he tells them to pick up the left overs. There are twelve baskets. Why do you think there was such a great surplus? This was to show how generous God is. I wonder if the crowd go "to go" boxes. The people were wanting to avenge the death of John the Baptist.

Jesus Walks Upon the Water Read Matthew 14:22-36

- 24. Where did Jesus go after feeding the five thousand? Why? Where did His disciples go? Jesus sent His disciples to the boat to go to the other side of the lake. The fact that the disciples left, probably helped inspire the people to leave too. He sent the people away and went up in the hills to pray. He needed some alone time.
- 25.What difficulty did the disciples experience while rowing their boat on the Sea of Galilee? What caused them to be afraid? How were their fears quieted? The wind was blowing against the boat and they were having difficulty making any progress. It is probably between 3 and 6 AM.Then they see a figure that they

think is a ghost, but it is Jesus walking on the water. Jesus told them not to be afraid, "It is I."

- 26.What did Peter do upon seeing Jesus walking on the sea? What happened to him? How did Jesus respond to him? What was the response of the others who were in the boat when they saw Jesus and all that He had done? Peter wanted to get out of the boat and walk on the water too. Jesus told him to come, and he walked a little but became afraid and started to sink. Fear is the enemy of faith. They worshipped Jesus.
- 27. How did the people of the land of Gennesaret respond to Jesus? They brought their sick to Him. They asked to touch the hem of his cloak and if they did, they were well. Though the apostles had started their boat toward Capernaum, the storm appears to have deflected their course, and the language of the text suggests that they probably came to land at the south end of the plain, somewhere near Magdala, and made a circuit of the cities in the plain of Gennesaret on their way to Capernaum.

Closing prayer: Lord, we have heard how you worked when you walked on earth, help us follow Your example more faithfully. In Your name, Amen.

Matthew 8: 18-27	Mark 6:1-6	Luke 9:1-6	Matthew 9:10-17
Matthew 8:28-34	Mark 6;30-32	Luke 9:7-9	Matthew 9:18-26
Matthew 14:22-36	Mark 6:33-44		Matthew 9:27-34